

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Responsive to the Office Action dated March 24, 2006, Applicant has canceled Claims 8 and 19 and has amended Claims 1, 2, 9, 11 and 20. Applicant appreciates the recognition that Claims 8-9 and 19-20 would be allowable if rewritten to include the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the limitations of Claim 8 and has amended independent Claim 11 to include the limitations of Claim 20. Accordingly, Claims 1-7, 9-18, and 20-21 remain pending for prosecution with Claims 1 and 11 being independent.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 2-4 were objected to because the "top surface" lacked a positive antecedent. Applicant has amended Claim 2 in accordance therewith. Claims 3 and 4 depend from Claim 2. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

II. Claim Rejections

Claims 1-7, 10-18, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,351,913 to Freiborg et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,913,294 to Freiborg et al.. Applicant respectfully submits that, in view of the amendments discussed above, this rejection is moot. Accordingly, Applicant courteously solicits withdrawal of this rejection.

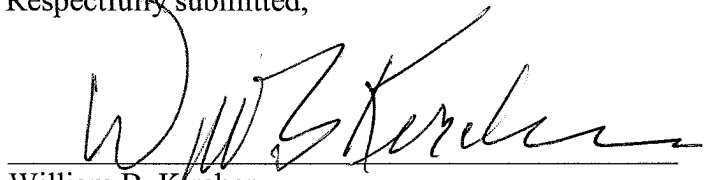
III. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits the claims are in condition for formal allowance which is courteously solicited. If any issue regarding the allowability of any of the pending claims in the

present application could be readily resolved, or if other action could be taken to further advance this application such as an Examiner's amendment, or if the Examiner should have any questions regarding the present amendment, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner please telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney in this regard. Should any fees be necessitated by this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account No. 11-0160.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8/23/2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William B. Kircher", written over a horizontal line.

William B. Kircher
Reg. No. 22,481
Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin LLP
4801 Main St., Suite 1000
Kansas City, MO 64112
816-983-8000
ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT